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1. An interface device comprising:

a first interface for receiving data from a first zone in a first zone data format;

means for processing said received data through performance of a cryptographic operation on at least a portion thereof;

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a second interface for sending said processed data to a second zone in a second zone data format; and

means arranged to pass said processed data exclusively from said processing means to said second interface.

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2. An interface device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

means arranged to convert said received data in said first zone data format into at least one data format other than said first zone data format prior to said data processing.

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3. An interface device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising:

means arranged to transform the data format of said received data from said first zone at least twice prior to said data processing.

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4. An interface device as claimed in any preceding claim in which said first zone data format is packetised data, further comprising:

means for reading at least one item of identification data from each packet; wherein

said processing means is arranged to process each respective packet in dependence on the or each corresponding item of identification data.

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5. An interface device as claimed in claim 4 further comprising:

B6 a store for storing one or more rules, each rule being linked with at least one of item of identification data; wherein

10 said processing means is arranged to process each packet in dependence upon the rule linked with the corresponding item(s) of identification data.

- Sub A2
- 15 6. An interface device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein one of the first and second interfaces is suitable for connection to a host such that the data format utilised by such a connected interface is one utilised by the host.

- 20 7. An interface device as claimed in claim 6 when depending on claim 5 in which, in response to receiving at least one control packet including at least an item of control identification data and control instructions through the interface not connected to the host and reading said item of control identification data from a control packet, said processing means is arranged to change said rules in said store in dependence upon said corresponding control instructions.

- 25 8. An interface device comprising:

30 a first interface for receiving data from a first authorised party in a first data format;

means for processing said received data through performance of a computational operation on at least a portion thereof;

a second interface for sending said processed data to a second authorised party in a second data format;

means arranged to pass said processed data exclusively from said processing means to said second interface;

5 wherein said operation performed by said processing means is such that if said sent processed data is intercepted by an unauthorised party, the recovery of said received data from said processed data is computationally unfeasible.

9. A method of operating an interface device comprising:

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receiving data at a first interface from a first zone in a first zone data format;

processing said received data through performance of a cryptographic operation on at least a portion thereof;

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passing said processed data exclusively from said processing means to a second interface; and

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sending said processed data from said second interface to a second zone in a second zone data format.

10.A method of operating an interface device as claimed in claim 9 further comprising:

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converting said received data in said first zone data format into at least one further data format prior to said processing.

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11.A method of operating an interface device as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 further comprising transforming the data format of said received data from said first zone at least twice prior to said processing.

12.A method of operating an interface device comprising:

receiving data at a first interface from a first authorised party in a first data format;

5 processing said received data through performance of a computational operation on at least a portion thereof;

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passing said processed data exclusively to a second interface;

10 sending said processed data from said second interface to a second authorised party in a second data format;

15 wherein said performance of said computational operation is such that if said sent processed data is intercepted by an unauthorised party, the recovery of said received data from said processed data is computationally unfeasible.

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